Thesis

on

Yellow Fever - Febris Flava -

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Yellow Fever

—Febris Flava

It is with no reluctance that after a long absence from an "Medical School" I now begin to write what should have been completed a long time ago, but circumstances under which I was impossible and I was compelled to defer until the present time, to finish what every student of medicine considers the end of his studies knowns as Graduating.

With many regrets for the past I now attempt to write a short "Thesis" on "Yellow Fever" in the hope of it meeting your approbation.

For time for the last year has been spent
mostly in Calcutta where this fever abounds
and as the it has been my lot to visit
India, and although no opportunities
have been afforded me to study with
care this disease still I have it will not
be considered improper
This fever has caused for itself a name
which ranks among the virulent Maladies
to which the Human race is subject.
It seems to unite its fatality and prevalence
in the warm Climate of the Tropics selecting
almost invariably Cities that have
unhealthy locations along the Sea Shore
where the drainage is bad, where many
Ships congregate, and where you find
a great many people huddled
together in small habitations with no

regard having paid to cleanliness. Like you find all over the West Indies, coast of Brazil and other localities where Fever abounds.

At Bahia Pernambuco and Rio de Janeiro they have no means to drain off the effete materials which collects in the streets; in the warm season the stench arising from the accumulated filth is horrible, and as a natural consequence this breeds Fever annually. The fatalities which has attended the visits of the Fever to these places induces it evident that to a great extent the inhabitants reap no more than a just reward for their lazy and indolent habits. The Cities of Liverpool, New Orleans, and Savannah, a great

part of each are built on land reclaimed from marsh, the foundations of which have been laid by rubbish collected from the streets, surrounded almost by water on which the Tides rise and set leaving for some time during the day immense banks of mud exposed to the rays of the sun, all the above affording the best opportunities for engendering Malaria, These cities have upon in their centres numerous victims of this great destroyer. This is abundant evidence that filth and bad locations under the virulence of this Fever greater, although there has been numerous cases of this disease in New York and Philadelphia the first have always occured after a vessel's hold had been broken out and not until

Fever.

A long continued spell of warm weather seems to be necessary to the Disease, the Thermometer (Farenheit) ranging at 80° or upwards for three or four months in the summer or beginning of Autumn has frequently been noticed to be the precursor.

At Key West, Florida, where the Temperature averages to the above for six months of the year they are visited annually by this disease, the Natives regard it as being a Natural occurrence happening at all times. It cannot be attributed to vessels in the Harbor for most of the Ships there during the last Epidemic came from the North loaded with Coal and Stores, hence the Fever could not

has been brought here.

The U. S. Str. R. R. Cuyler was at this place in 1862. The disease was then known on the Key and the Surgeon of the vessel insisted on her being kept away from the Wharf, but his entreaties availed nothing, after getting their Coal or Brand the vessel sailed on a Cruise but had only been out one or two days when the Fever made its appearance and many of the Officers and Crew fell victims to the destroyer.

This is one of many vessels that contracted the Malady in the above mentioned way showing conclusively that it was indigenous to the Key.

From the above it will be readily inferred that no claim can be strongly advanced

for its contagious properties. It seems to have many strong supporters for the Contagious theory, but certain it is no one can claim for it the same Contagion like that of Small Pox. for it is confined principally to Tropical Cities, while Small Pox knows no bounds nor limits. 'Tis true that a person once having "Yellow Fever" will not have it again but to insure this, a person must stay South and not go North or he will be as liable as ever to its influence. Almost all the Physicans in the West Indies regard it Endemic, and say that nurses who attend the sick are no more liable to the effects of this Disease than those who never enter the sick room but let them get worn out with constant

watching as they fall victims like in all other Endemic diseases. Again the Fever has raged at times with great violence in the midst of Charleston while the surrounding country has been exempt of contagion. Why did it not spread all over the Country?

Symptoms. The symptoms are unmistakable and although they present a great variety which differ in many respects still there are always a few signs which never fail to indicate the presence of this Malady.

Many times without any warning the patient is suddenly taken with violent and excruciating pains in the limbs, backs, and head, which in many cases deprive them of understanding

so violent is the pain succeeding this, sometimes there is an interval of suffering when the Patients mind then think they are well and that the violence of the Fever has passed, but this is only a delusive Calm which is followed by the return of the paroxysm with increased fury which exists from the Patient- loud cries and in many cases this is the last, for the System worn out by the violence, sinks and the "Black Vomit", involuntary discharges together with the yellow Conjunctiva, hoarse and often wanting Pulse, Sunken Eyes, Hemmorage from the different mucous Surfaces, and Stupor precede death; which sometimes

take place calmly and quietly, while in others the sufferings are ended in the midst of violent convulsions.

Instead of pursuing the above course (which generally happens when the person is no longer stricken down than his case is hopeless) the disease presents many other and diverse anomalies, but invariably we have the coated tongue, weak pulse, pain in the limbs, yellow conjunctiva, yellow skin, scanty urine, which upon standing let fall a yellow deposit.

The Fever may commence with all the usual preliminaries of a Fever, a cold creeping chill, then the high Pulse, but as the attack is said mostly to occur at night this stage may be

passed unnoticed, the first pains being those of the back and loins, then the Febrile action becomes established, the skin is hot and dry, the Pulse excited, the face flushed and anxious, the eyes watery, the tongue if noticed will be found furred. More or less Nausea sometimes vomiting, which attends the disease from first to the last. In the majority of cases the vomiting does not take place until the Febrile action is established then there is a sense of heat in the Epigastrium which is sensitive to pressure the vomiting is incessant nothing being retained in the Stomach; great thirst accompanies this stage and cold drinks are

eagerly swallowed in the hopes of allaying the burning thirst. The bowels are costive and when they move the discharges are very unhealthy and offensive.

The nervous sympathies continue throughout the different stages, the violent pains depress the Patients of their minds. There is also a great or less degree of Stupor which when short of Coma, the signs of distress show themselves as through a veil.

The above is a synopsis of the general Symptoms; These may last for two or three days and is very properly called the first stage; but as before mentioned the Patient may die in this stage without ever having any

remission of their agonies.

If the Patient passes through the first stage, then comes a complete exemption from pain and he feels as if rescued from death; the intolerable pain has gone, the head no longer throbs, the Stomach is quiet the Patient can sit up, and is sensible of things passing around him. This is in the majority of cases only a cessation, it is the calm before the storm which now reigns with redoubled fury; then comes the battle for life. The system previously weakened and prostrated by the first stage in part succumbs, hence the intermission of pain, the continuance of the Coma would show there was still vital power left and

that it would be able perhaps to come off victorious. The intervals seldom last longer than one or two hours, when the Fever renews its strength, the Epigastrium becomes sensitive, the skin assumes with more certainty the yellow hue from that of dusky red, the Urine has increased yellowness, the Pulse sinks below fifty beats, these symptoms may last a few hours when the aggravation may manifest itself by the vomiting of very weak Pulse, the Blood becoming stagnant, impressions made on the body retaining very slowly to their original color, the Tongue is brown and cracked across collecting on the teeth, the Stomach increasing in irritability and instead of the glairy mucus

Vomiting comes the Characteristic
one. that is the "Black Vomit"
Involuntary discharges taking place
from the Mucous Surfaces convulsions
Stupor and delirium always
preceding death.

Prognosis- The Prognosis is unfavorable
the Countenance presents in many
instances the unmistakable signs
not by its color but by expression, the
anxious, and despairing look which
tells at once whether it has the imprint
of death upon it.

The favorable symptoms are increased
Urine, Moist skin, cleaning of the
Tongue from the sides and tip, decrease
of thirst and regular pulse without
any marked remission of pain, all

the sufferings terminating gradually into a slow Fever without any marked exacerbations.

Foreigners are more liable to the effects of the Fever than the Natives. Intemperate persons hardly ever recover from the disease.

It can easily be understood why the Irish, Germans, English and Scotch afford the worst cases while the French Spaniards and Italians are comparitively exempt, the former are more muscular intemperate and careless of their diet, while the latter drink very little liquor are careful of their diet, what they eat is simple and harmless.

Experienced Practitioners of the West

Indies say they lose two thirds of
their Patients.
Children are carried off in great
numbers & the ravages among
them are terrible. their systems being
so weak that the disease sweeps
them away without any warning.
The favorable signs of the Cuban
Physicians and I believe of all are
the prolongation of the Fever several
days with a gentle Diaphoresis.
dark discharges from the
bowels, good appearance of the
countenance.
Diagnosis. The Diagnosis is plain.
and from the foregoing it will
seem there are many symptoms with
which to distinguish this disease

It may resemble in some respects Bilious Fever but there is the Countenance the pulse, color of the skin, together with the scanty Urine which serves as a landmark by which to guide our opinion.

Most characteristic of all is the Black vomit, (a substance resembling Coffee grounds) which symptom can be claimed by no other disease, also the dusky red hue of the skin.

Again the locality season of the year, the kinds of Fever prevailing will aid in determining our diagnosis, taking time to be satisfied in our own minds before giving public Opinion.

Treatment - The law of Similia is amply exemplified in this disease, and although we have a very few writers who have made this a specialty, still enough has been written to show the superior power of our remedies -

In the "Old School" Practice, there has been so many changes, and so great differences, in the mode of treatment that the Student - is puzzled and perplexed, to know how to select from the mass; long ago they have left the dogmas of "Pathagoras" and "Hippocrates" in the hopes of finding more rational modes of treatment; but how signally have they failed. Through the long

vista of by gone years this potent remedial agent, like nations have had their rise and fall- until at last they have begun to adopt in the treatment of this disease, the simple Mustard Bath and a slight Aperient- it being according to the West Indian Practitioners the best remedy; this if they only knew it- bears a striking resemblance to the law of Similitude.
One of the most successful Practitioners of our Island (Dr Holcombe) has given in his short treatise, Statistics showing that out of one hundred and forty cases treated by himself only nine died; While

of forty four treated by Dr Jewell (allopath) thirty four died - the latter were taken from the lower orders and of course due allowance must be made, but in comparing the success in any district the superiority is manifest -

The "Materia Medica" abounds with remedies that bear a striking likeness to this disease, and we have only to compare them correctly and prescribe according to Hahnemann when a grand triumph will be ours -

Among the various remedies used in this disease are Aconite and Belladona in the first stage, Arsenicum, Kalesis

Crotalus Horridus Carbo Vegetabilis,
Arg Nitricum Acid Sulphuricum
Veratrum in the second, or all the
Stages.

Aconite, bears a striking resemblance to
the first stage. when there is a high
Erethic state of the system, Pulse rapid
and strong, great headache in the
fore part of the head so violent as to
make the Patient delirious, face flushed
red and anxious, urine scanty,
Bowels discharge a dark colored
substance, intense pains in the back,
is very desponding, thinks he will
die, the eyes watery, skin dry,
with cold chills creeping over the
body—

Belladonna—Is useful for the head

symptoms, when the face is suffused of a dark color, head congested, Pain in the top of the head, eyes suffused, burning of the skin, which is of a yellow color through which the above mentioned dark suffused color can be seen, violent pain in the abdomen, wild delirium screaming, convulsions and Vomiting, then is also dimness of sight with difficult hearing.

In the second stage. Ars, Lachesis, Crotalis Hydrus Ivatrum—

Ascenicum When the patient has the anxious look the countenance pinched face yellow Tongue furred violent headache, intense thirst, drinking little and often. Skin cold and clammy Pulse weak and feeble

Vomiting of a dark substance - scalding
in passing water, fear of death,
thinks there is no hope -
Lachesis - When there is difficult deglutition, deep seated and excruciating pain
in the limbs, disposed to bad feelings
resembling in this respect Arsenicum
The pain is from within outwards, face
gray, has a burning thirst but not
disposed to drink anything, tongue
brown cracked with sores on the teeth
nausea vomiting of a dark
fluid - high colored urine and scanty
Corallis Horidus, bids fair to be a
prominent remedy in this disease,
its symptoms as described in
provings of Dr Hering's resemble
the first as well as the second

stage, the pains in the back and loins,
with creeping chills heavy limbs,
excruciating headache great thirst
and restlessness, vomiting, desire
to get out of bed, moaning, together
with the flushed and yellow
countenance, pulse quick and
high, scant urine, dark discharges
all make it a true type of this
dread disease, and those who have
used it speak in high terms of
its efficacy.
Veratrum, when in the absence of
pain there is the deathly sickness,
cold clammy perspiration,
weak and thread like pulse, no
desire for food, indifference alike
to drinks, great fear of death, and

involuntary discharges-
Bryonia and Rhus Toxicodendron
when the system shows signs
of a Typoid state, the former
when Pectoral symptoms make
their appearance and the latter
when with the low state of the
system there is a soreness of the
muscles as if a cold had been
taken-
Carbo veg when the Patient looks as
if he was on the eve of dying
vomiting of a dark substance
extreme prostration with great
thirst and heat in the back of the
head-
Ary Nitricum is especially recommended by Dr Holcombe when the

Black Vomit-makes it appearance
great prostration of the whole
system, involuntary discharges
great thirst, and headache, burning
in the Mouth and stomach, with
a strong acid taste.
Acid Sulphuricum is also
extolled as useful when there is
extreme prostration, with burning
in the stomach and dark
discharges from the bowels, the
countenance sunken and devoid
of expression, cold clammy
perspiration.
Anti Et-Pot Tartras, ranks with
many of our best remedies in
its Homeopathic applicability to
the second stage-when there is

incessant vomiting with great faintness, weak and tremulous pulse, the main symptom is the intense gastric irritability.
Ipecac is also used when the vomiting does not produce such a great degree of prostration the pulse must not be below the usual standard when this remedy is used.
Cannabis when there is much burning in passing urine, but Cantharides will be found a more useful remedy and will be indicated when there is a great desire to pass urine and but little comes away, also strangury.

In connection with the administration of the Medicine it would be well to pay attention to the Nurse and see that their duty is properly discharged. Cleanliness and attention are valuable aids in the cure. Everything must be done to promote the comfort of the patient, cool drinks slightly acidulated will be found very grateful to the patient. and Baths if proper precautions are observed will very often quiet the patient and add Materially to his comfort— Exposure to cold must be strictly avoided. The diet should be mild with

very little nourishment in it at first but as the patient improves the nutritious articles may be used such as Beef Tea, Arrow root, and Tapioca.

Convalescence is very slow the system has been worn out with the demands made upon it and weeks elapse before the cure is complete.

When more opportunities are offered the Law of Similitude will show its power over Yellow Fever like it has over that of Typoid stripping it of some of its terrors and making it subservient to the Grand Law of Cure

Pathology. In most diseases dissection reveals to us the organs affected, but in this it is very undefined. The membranes of the Brain are congested and filled with blood, sometimes; the Stomach inflamed. The Mucous membranes brown but more general found thickened showing signs of having been violently inflamed, the Cardiac portion more affected than the Pyloric. The Spleen is enlarged, the Kidneys inflamed, the Liver is found in a peculiar pale condition paler than health.

All Pathologists seem to disagree as to the seat of the disease for in most instances different organs are affected

In conclusion I would say we have every reason to believe more firmly than ever in our faith concerning the Law discovered by Hahnemann and to practice in the same manner as he did is sure to bring a rich return. I have not wrote anything concerning the power of the remedies to be used but would adopt that of the higher than the lower attenuations experience having taught me of their efficacy and their abilities to conquer disease.